



People who help us

THE POLICE FORCE







Most days we see Policemen and Policewomen on their beats around our towns and cities. This book, written very simply for young children and illustrated with over one hundred, full colour photographs, specially taken for the book, describes the working life of the Police force. From details of Police uniform and vehicles to frogmen, dog handlers and the communications centre, this book takes young children behind the scenes.

Acknowledgments

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First Edition

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People who help us

THE POLICE FORCE

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Ladybird Books Loughborough



In every town and city you will see policemen and policewomen. There are over 110,000 men and women in the police force. Today our police have many different sorts of jobs.



A mobile crime prevention display which is taken from town to town



**They help us
to keep our
homes,
towns and
cities safe.**

*A crime prevention
officer discusses an
alarm system with a
shopkeeper*

They tell us
how to lock up
our houses and
factories safely.
This is called
*crime
prevention.*

*Checking an alarm system
and other safety measures,
such as bars at the window*





A policeman records the speed of passing traffic and reports people driving too fast to another officer further down the road. This officer will stop these cars

But when people break the law by driving too fast, breaking into houses or factories, stealing, starting fires or even killing people, the police work to find out who did these things.

A Truvelo meter which records the time taken by a car to travel between two wires stretched across the road. The time is then converted automatically, by this machine, into the travelling speed of the vehicle



The police take these people to a *court of law*. If they are guilty then they must pay a fine or perhaps go to prison.

In this way, policemen and policewomen are keeping our country safe and making sure that people who break the law are found out.



In the courtroom, a policewoman gives evidence to the magistrate



Two hundred years ago we didn't have a police force. People were often attacked by thieves and robbed. A man called Sir Robert Peel thought that people should be protected from thieves and he started the first police force in London. The men were called *Peelers* or *Bobbies* because of Sir Robert Peel's name.

The uniform of a Peeler around the early 19th century



Policemen and policewomen wear a smart, navy blue uniform with shiny buttons. Every police officer wears a number on his or her shoulder. They wear shirts and navy blue ties and on hot days they may be allowed to take off their jackets. Many policemen wear helmets.



Sometimes the police walk around or ride bicycles. Sometimes they ride motorcycles.



Below a police mechanic converts a new motorcycle for police use. It will have a radio, siren, 'stop' lights and containers, called panniers, for special equipment.





They also drive patrol cars, called panda cars, to get to places quickly.



If a policeman rides a motorcycle he must wear a crash helmet and the men and women who drive patrol cars wear a soft-topped, flat cap.



All police vehicles are checked regularly so that they are always in perfect condition for police use





A range of police cars and vans





P C means Police Constable and WPC means Woman Police Constable. These are the officers we mostly see around our towns and cities.





Sergeant

In charge of them is a *sergeant* and an *inspector* and a *superintendent*. Look at the different badges, stripes and buttons which these officers have on their uniforms. The chief of police in each county is called a *Chief Constable*.



Inspector

Chief Inspector



Parts of our police force wear their own clothes for work. We call this *plain clothes*. These people are detectives and they work for the CID. This means Criminal Investigation Department. They go to where someone has broken into a shop, house or school and look for clues. They ask many questions in case anyone saw anything which would give them a clue. Also they look for fingerprints.

The equipment used by a fingerprint expert to find and record fingerprints at the scene of a crime





C I D officers use a brush to put powder, called *aluminium powder*, on anything which the thief may have touched.

When the officer has found fingerprints, these are developed using special sticky tape, or a special waving card. If this is not possible, fingerprints will be photographed where they were found.






Close-up of a fingerprint.



If a suspect has been caught, fingerprints are taken at the police station. The finger is rolled on an inked, metal plate

Each one of us has different fingerprints. If a thief has broken into a house before and been caught by the police, then his or her fingerprints would have been printed on a card with their name and their picture. This card is stored in police headquarters.

1 — R. Thumb	2 — R. Forefinger	3.—R. Middle Finger
		



The ink finger is then rolled onto a special form which is marked out for each finger

Many criminals have been found because they left their fingerprints on something when they broke into a house or a bank. This is why thieves wear gloves and this makes the work of the police harder.

An expert checking fingerprints found at a burglary, against records kept at the police station

4 —R. Ring Finger



When policemen and policewomen go to work, they go to the police station. Each of them has a different part of the town or city, or even a



whole village, to look after and this is called their *beat*.



Before they go on their beat, the police station sergeant will tell them if there is anything special to look out for.

This PC will take his truncheon, handcuffs, radio, whistle, watch, helmet, notebook and pen with him on his beat

The officers check the batteries in their radios before going out on the beat



It could be a stolen car, or a man or woman wanted by the police, or something which has been lost or stolen. Police are trained to look at everything very carefully and to look out for anything strange or suspicious.

A PC goes on his beat



A PC using his radio to check with the police station about a car which he thinks is suspect



All officers carry notebooks so that they can write down things they see, things people tell them, and names or addresses they need to remember.



The policemen or women on the beat are very helpful. They will give directions if someone is lost.



Police officers also carry pocket radios so that when they are on their beats they can radio for help or get a message from the police station.

The control room at the police station receives the calls from officers on the beat



Police cars and motor bikes have radios and the officers will drive very fast if it is safe to do so, with lights flashing and sirens sounding, when there is a fire, or accident or big robbery.







These days we have special *motorway police* with very fast patrol vehicles. The cars or Land Rovers carry special signs, lights, cones and First Aid equipment. They go to accidents, or lorries which have lost their loads, and put out warning cones so that other traffic doesn't come near.





Inside the cab of a police Range Rover

The police can use their radios to send for an ambulance or fire engine or a breakdown truck.

Special motorway control centre showing a map of the stretch of motorway covered by this constabulary





This constabulary has a special Police Accident Unit. It is a large, specially-converted van which carries 211 separate items of equipment and can travel very quickly to an accident. It carries tools and cutters

In the cab of the Accident Unit. The controls have coloured buttons known only to those officers driving and operating the vehicle





for rescue and inflatable air bags which can lift heavy vehicles. Also there is First Aid equipment, signs, ladders, protective clothing and helmets. The Unit has its own office and even hot and cold running water.

The big light on top of the Unit extends upwards and will light up a very large area all round it if an accident happens at night.



The PC explains why an arrest has been made and the Sergeant writes details in a book at the charge desk

When a policeman or policewoman catches a thief or someone who has broken the law, he or she arrests them and takes them in a car or van to the police station. At the police station they will ask a lot of questions and the thief may be put in a cell until it is time to go to the court.

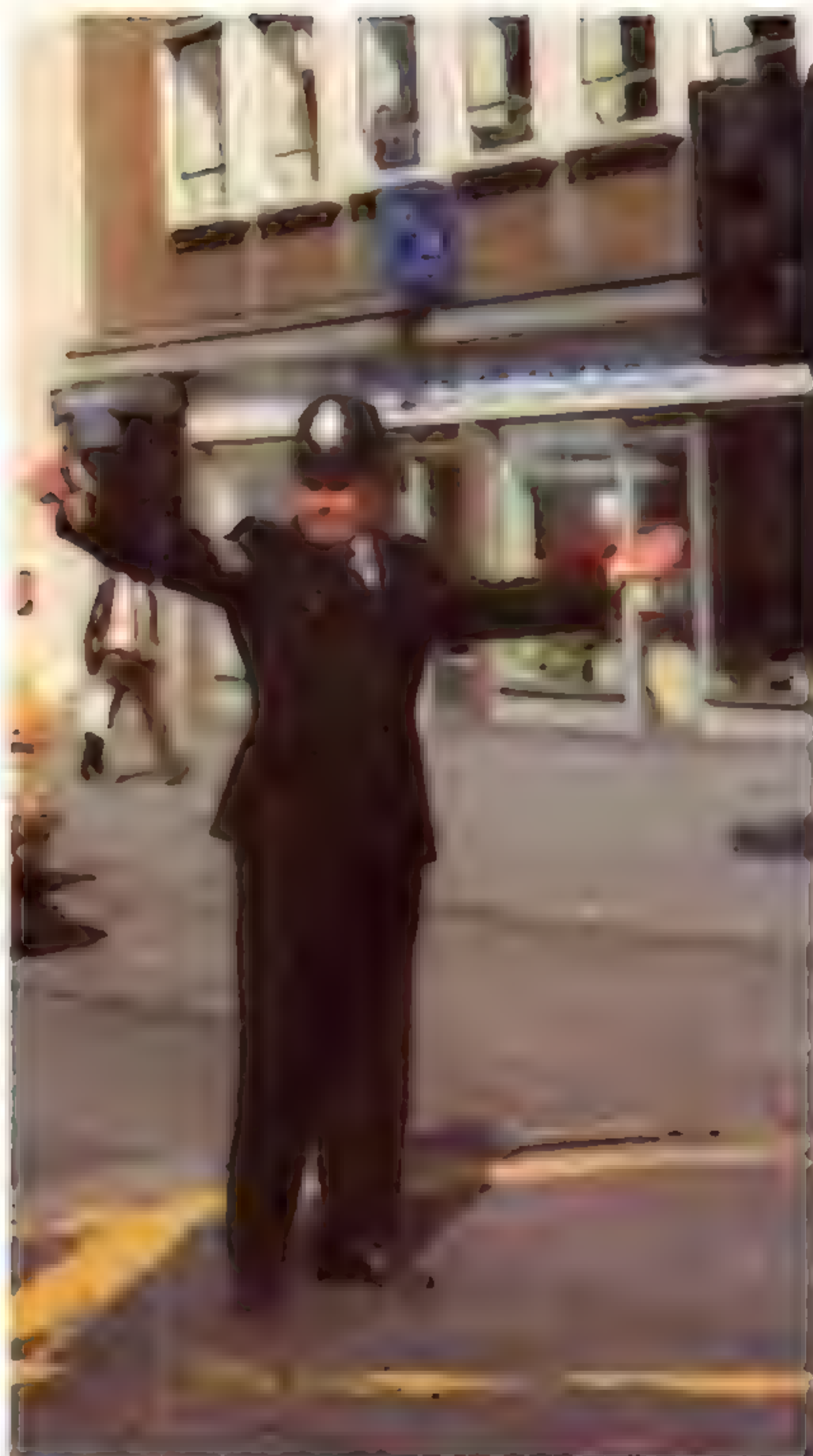




Different officers stay on duty at the police station all day and night. People go and ask for help or to tell the police when they have lost or found something or seen something suspicious.

Kirti and Anita came to the police station because they had found a bunch of keys





In some places a police officer will help you to cross the road to school. If traffic lights break down or if there are road works, a police officer or traffic warden, who works with the police, will direct the traffic. They may wear a white coat or big white cuffs and gloves so that drivers can see them easily.

Police officers in Great Britain do not carry guns like those in some countries. Only when something like a big bank robbery is happening, where the robbers have guns, can a senior police officer



A French police officer

give permission for our police to have guns to protect themselves. These officers are specially trained and practise shooting so that they won't hit the wrong person by accident. Police officers use guns to protect themselves from serious injury.



Some police officers ride horses. If there is a large crowd of people because of a football match,



Mixing the horses' feed



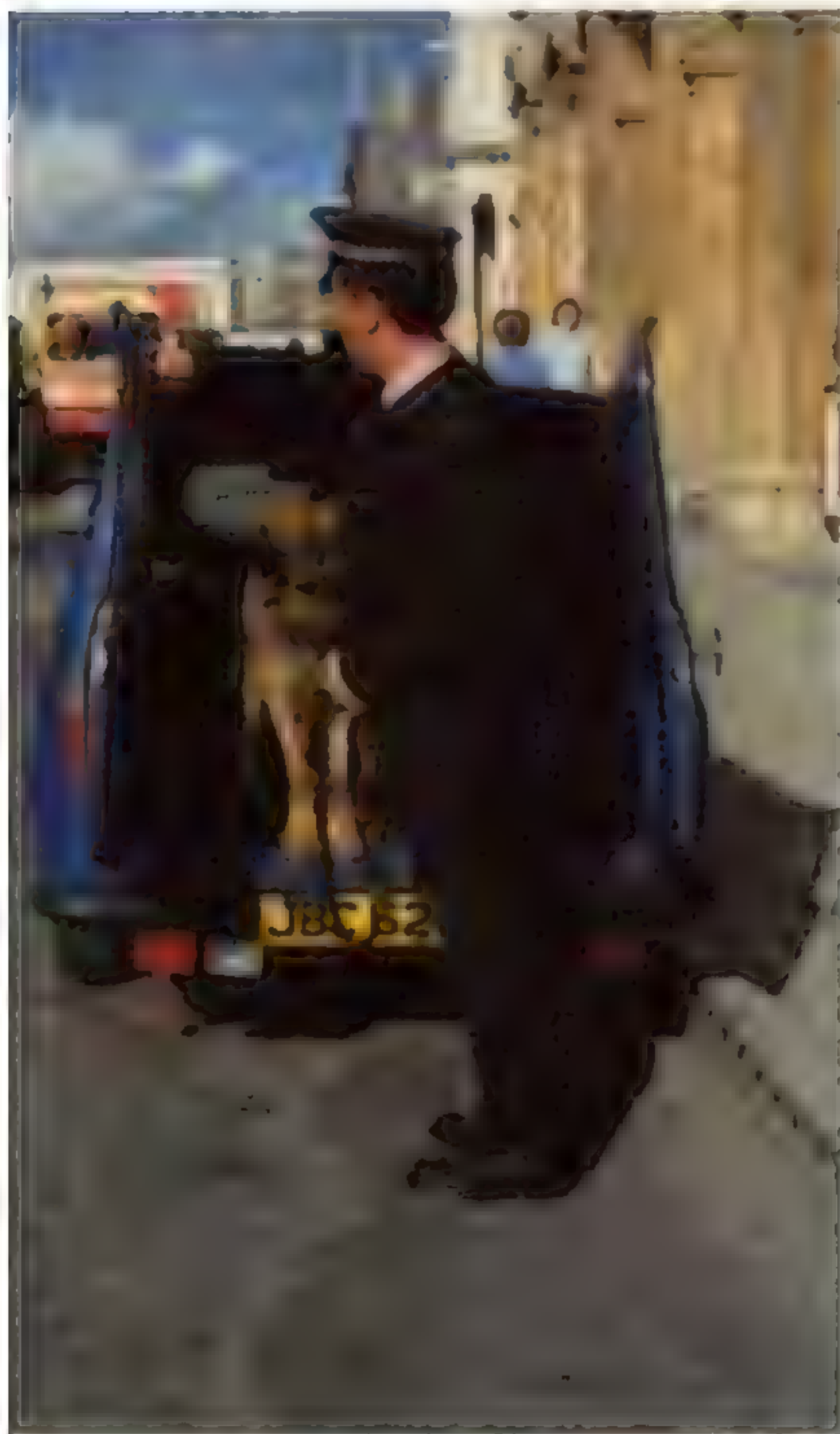
Grooming a police horse

a carnival procession or some other special occasion, they help to control the crowds. These are called *mounted police* and their horses are trained not to be frightened by noise, people or traffic.

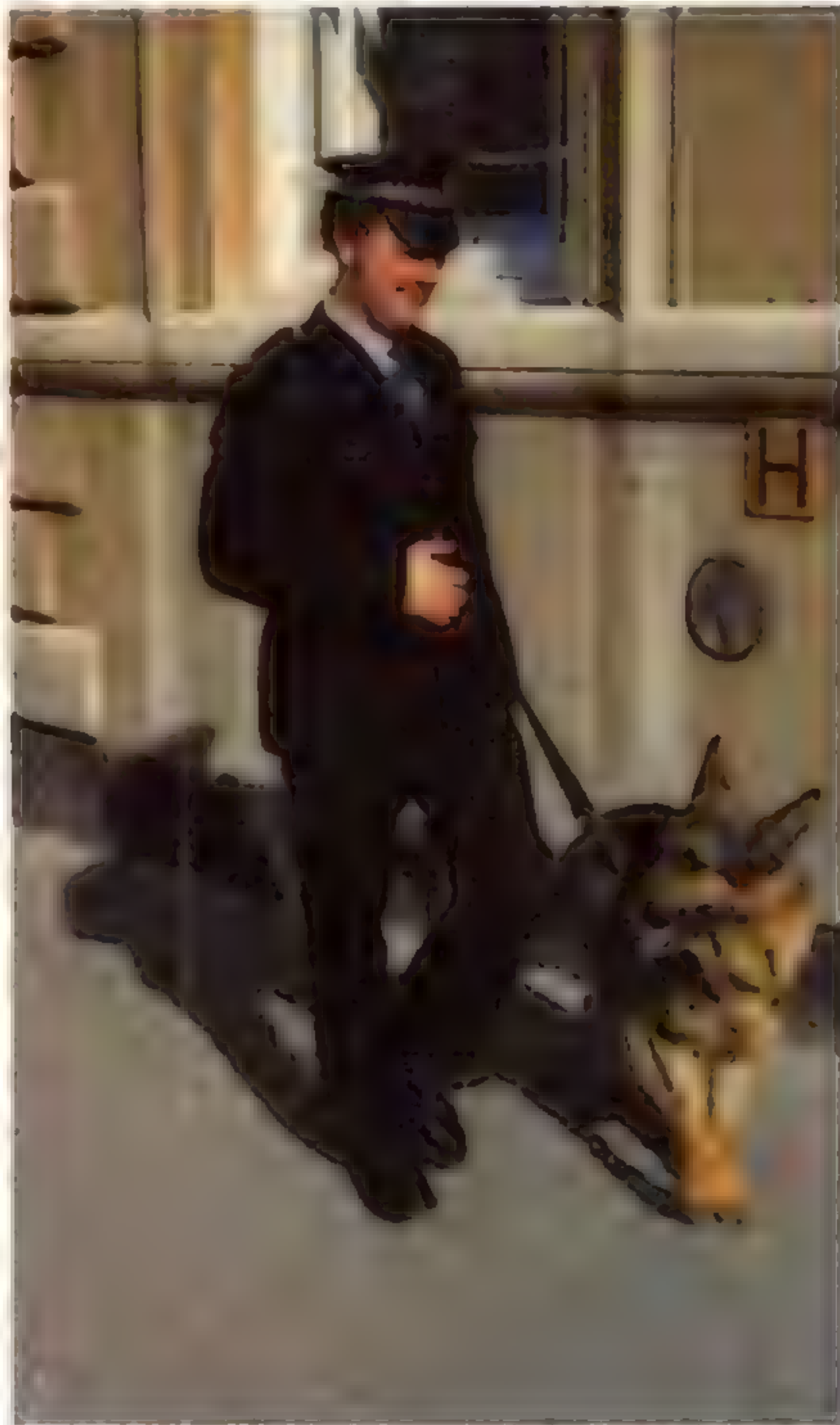
Training and exercising a horse



There are other sorts of special police officers. Sometimes dogs are used to hunt for criminals or stolen



The dog is transported in a special patrol van



The dog and handler on patrol

goods. The dogs work with one policeman called a *handler*. Dogs and handlers are trained together on special courses.

The dog
always works
with the
handler who
has trained it
and lives in a
kennel at the
handler's
home.

*The dog lives in a special
kennel but is very much
a 'member of the family'*





In parts of the country where there are big rivers or harbours, the police have fast boats with radios so that they can move around on the water.



An old boat, left in the river, is towed in by the police launch



Work on the boat's engine



At the controls



High speed, roller coaster ride



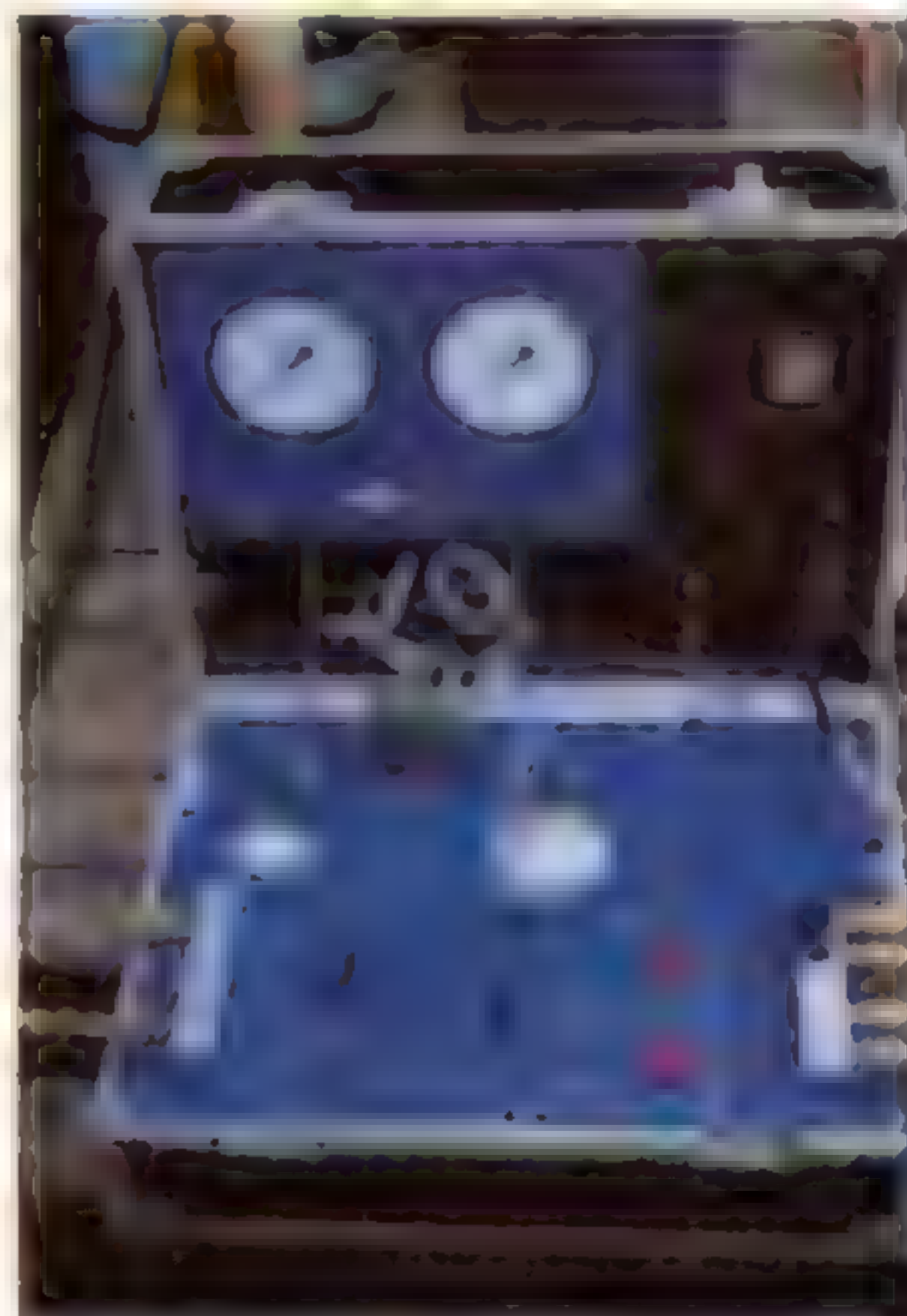


Some policemen train to be frogmen who can dive under water to search for something. They wear thick rubber diving suits and learn how to breathe from tanks of air which they carry on their backs.

The Underwater Search and Rescue vehicle carries all the frogmen's equipment and has a kitchen to cook meals and a rest area in case the underwater search takes a long time







A diver tests the deep water equipment. Air comes from the surface down an air line and men control this from the land and keep in contact with the diver by radio.





While searching this canal, these frogmen found a motorbike (top) and an old safe with its back cut out





A communications centre which controls the whole of a county constabulary

Our police force works very hard, night and day, to make our country safe and to protect ordinary people from criminals.

A police officer receives messages from different police stations





Head of the computer development team which is investigating the use of computers within the police force

They will help us whenever we need them. We can also help the police by keeping our homes safely locked and not breaking the law. We can help by watching out for anything strange or suspicious and telling the police about this.

A Home Office radio engineer keeps the police force's radio equipment in good working order





In an emergency there is a special telephone number which can be used to call the police very quickly. This is **999**. It is against the law to use this number unless there is a real emergency but the next page will tell you how to dial 999 just in case you ever need to.



A policewoman in the communications centre receives a 999 call

Dial 999. The call is free. You do not need any money for an emergency call. Ask for the police.

In a clear voice, tell them your name, address and the number you are ringing from.

Tell the police quickly and clearly what has happened.

Don't put your phone down until the police tell you to.



The Police force spend a lot of time detecting crime but it would be much better if this crime could be prevented in the first place



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A COMPLETE STRANGER ?**



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